



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

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Technology Improvements Optimize Funding at Hanford

Cloud Computing Reduces Costs, Power Consumption Across Site

RICHLAND, Wash.— As part of Energy Secretary Steven Chu’s corporate initiative to explore strategies to optimize funding available for Department of Energy priorities, the Richland Operations Office (RL) continues to embrace industry-recognized best practices for reducing costs, improving services and increasing efficiencies at the Hanford Site.

In November, RL federal staff migrated to the Hanford Federal Cloud (HFNet). HFNet is a tenant on the HFCloud. The HFCloud is a community computing “cloud” giving federal users and contractors secure access to information. It focuses on the integration of site-wide video, data and voice services, and consolidates the functionality and management of computer resources at a central location, allowing users to access the data and applications via their individual hardware such as thin-client, smart phone, or laptop. The improvements give workers access to data and information at the point of performance and increase worker productivity and mobility in remote areas of the Hanford Site.

“This move to the cloud will save the Richland office approximately 60 percent per year in federal network costs,” said Gene Higgins, RL Infrastructure Program Manager. “Cloud computing coupled with the thin-client technology will significantly reduce the cost of refreshing or replacing 9,000 computers deployed across the Hanford Network.”

Initial projections over the next four years indicate about \$12 million in total cost savings. This includes reducing CO2 emissions by 3 million pounds and reducing power by 2 million Kilowatts hours, as well as a 30 percent reduction in the total cost of ownership and a 48 percent reduction in operating expenses over the same time period. The money being saved will be available for Hanford Site cleanup activities.

Cloud computing is one of a number of actions that Hanford managers are taking to reduce operating costs at the site. It is part of a larger IT program completed in 2011, more than 8 years ahead of schedule, which will result in a 35 percent reduction in overall IT operations and maintenance service costs.

“HFCloud computing allows the government to save money, work more efficiently and maintain better security for its data” said Frank Armijo, president and general manager for the Mission Support Alliance. “HFCloud is a great example of how we’ve improved service to end-users on site while providing global cost savings and environmental benefits to the government.”

The [Mission Support Alliance](#) (MSA) is responsible for the Hanford Site’s infrastructure support services and facilitated the transition for the DOE-RL. As part of their mission, MSA is responsible for providing IT Services at Hanford.

For more information on the HFCloud, please see the [Cloud Computing Fact Sheet](#) .

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